

little bits of foul paper, marked so many cents, and signed by some tradesman, barber, or inn-keeper: exchanges deranged to the extent of fifty or one hundred per cent. DISTRESS, the universal cry of the people: RELIEF, the universal demand thundered at the doors of all legislatures, State and federal. It was at the moment when this distress had reached its maximum—1820-'21—and had come with its accumulated force upon the machine of the federal government, that this "VIEW" of its working begins. It is a doleful starting point, and may furnish great matter for contrast, or comparison, at its concluding period in 1850.

Such were some of the questions growing out of the war of 1812, or immediately ensuing its termination. That war brought some difficulties to the new generation, but also great advantages, at the head of them the elevation of the national character throughout the world. It immensely elevated the national character, and, as a consequence, put an end to insults and out-

rages to which we had been subject. No more impressments: no more searching our ships: no more killing: no more carrying off to be forced to serve on British ships against their own country. The national flag became respected. It became the *Ægis* of those who were under it. The national character appeared in a new light abroad. We were no longer considered as a people so addicted to commerce as to be insensible to insult: and we reaped all the advantages, social, political, commercial, of this auspicious change. It was a war necessary to the honor and interest of the United States, and was bravely fought, and honorably concluded, and makes a proud era in our history. I was not in public life at the time it was declared, but have understood from those who were, that, except for the exertions of two men (Mr. Monroe in the Cabinet, and Mr. Clay in Congress), the declaration of war could not have been obtained. Honor to their memories!

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PERSONAL ASPECT

ALL the departments owed to great advantage of their administrators as Senator at Washington; President; Governor of Massachusetts; Mr. John Quincy Adams; Mr. William H. Crawford; Treasury; Mr. John C. Calhoun; War; Mr. Smith Thompson; Secretary of the Navy; Major General; William B. Ewell; General. These constituted the department, and it would be difficult to find any government, in any age, more talented and experienced, more decorous, more pure, more full of information, and more honest, than was comprised in this. The legislative department was equally impressive. The Senate was composed of eminent men who had rendered valuable services in the federal government, and some of them constituted the history. From New-York, John Jay and Nathan Sanford; from Massachusetts, Mr. Harrison Gray Otis; from Georgia, Mr. Macon; and from Virginia, the two Governors, James Monroe and James Pleasants; from South Carolina, John Pickens; from Louisiana, Andrew Pickens; from Kentucky, John C. Breckinridge; from Tennessee, John C. Breckinridge; from Kentucky, John C. Breckinridge; from Louisiana, Governor Henry Johnson.